

A VISION FOR GIVING

The Catalyst

HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



moving High Point
FORWARD

Think big.
ACT BIGGER.



a look inside The Catalyst

P. 3	LEADING WITH IMPACT <i>Perspective from Barry Safrit</i> <i>President's Message from Paul Lessard</i>
P. 7	HPCF COMMUNITY IMPACT <i>Annual Grants Program</i> <i>Women's Fund Grants</i>
P. 17	MOVING THE CITY FORWARD <i>Housing Impact Fund</i> <i>Literacy Initiative</i>
P. 23	IN THE COMMUNITY <i>New HPCF Trustees</i> <i>Ilderton Family</i> <i>Pro Sports & Philanthropy</i>

EDITOR & WRITER

Jaymi LaGuardia,
Director of Marketing & Communications, HPCF

CONTRIBUTOR & WRITER

Paul Lessard,
President, HPCF

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Hannah Ray



Leading with Impact



from the Chairman

“
Our leadership and staff believe in the future of High Point, and we are dedicated to making progress every single day toward building a stronger, more vibrant, more equitable, and healthier community.

BARRY SAFRIT
CHAIR, HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

”

Greetings!

As Chair of the High Point Community Foundation, I see our organization's mission as a promise to all in our community that we will provide leadership, vision, investment, and most of all, a commitment to positively impact our current and future generations. In the past 27 years, we have grown dramatically in size, assets, and impact, which speaks to the efforts of so many past Trustees whose shoulders we stand upon. Our leadership and staff believe in the future of High Point, and we are dedicated to making progress every single day toward building a stronger, more vibrant, more equitable, and healthier community. This year will be a pivotal year in the Foundation's growth as we have stepped up from a grant maker to an initiative driver which will enable us to invest more significantly to help steer High Point into the future.

May 26th will mark the 166th anniversary of the founding of High Point in 1859 with a name that signified we were the "high point" on the North Carolina Plank Road. Because of our location on this road, we became a center of commerce, industry, and growth which continues even today. When I looked back to see what was happening in 1859, I learned it was the year they first minted the "Indian Head" penny, Oregon became our 33rd state, the current "Cape Lookout" Lighthouse in our own state of NC was first lighted, the "Comstock Lode," a huge gold deposit in Utah, was discovered, Elias Disney, Walt Disney's father, was born, and the City of High Point was chartered. Now consider all of this for a moment and then cast your eyes to the future. We will have moved from minting Indian Head pennies to credit cards to crypto currencies, and who can even imagine what new wonders are on the horizon for us and our great nation?

The High Point Community Foundation is committed to generational investing in those ideas, opportunities, and institutions right here in High Point which will positively impact our community and by extension, your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Lock arms with us, become part of our Donor family and together, we will help High Point reach its fullest, God-given potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry Safrit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barry" being more prominent than the last name "Safrit".

Barry Safrit
CFO, Marsh Cabinets
Chair, High Point Community Foundation



from the President

“Our goal is to lead High Point boldly

*into a season in which all of our citizens, especially our
young people, have the opportunity, access and resources
to rise to their fullest God-given potential.*

PAUL LESSARD,
PRESIDENT, HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The High Point Community Foundation is moving into 2025 with the strength and wisdom of those who have come before us in this great endeavor and with the optimism, ambition and talents of a remarkably talented Board of Trustees. We have a collection of leaders who represent a true cross-section of our community, and they bring with them a sense of diversity, focus, and passion that I am confident will create transformational change for High Point.

Over the past 27 years, we have witnessed how wise, discerning, and well-executed investments can literally take a community from good to great. Our goal is to lead High Point boldly into a season in which all of our citizens, especially our young people, have the opportunity, access, and resources to rise to their fullest God-given potential.

We are moving into the second year of our HPCF Literacy Initiative that has incorporated the High Dosage Tutoring strategy in our local elementary schools to significant effect. We believe this approach is a game changer and the data confirms the improvements in our first graders this year. Reading in High Point and our great nation must be an inalienable right, available to all, and when we close the illiteracy gap, we will see stronger, more equitable communities.

We have also begun fundraising for the HPCF Housing Impact Fund that will impact folks making 30%-80% annual median income which includes teachers, police officers, firefighters, EMTs, medical professionals, and middle management. It will provide a \$40 million resource for local developers to incentivize them to build quality, affordable housing. This Initiative is taking us into the economic arena of our community by providing for people who are key to the future success of High Point.

In addition to this, we will continue to build upon our work with our other impacting Initiatives – Heart of High Point, which addresses basic needs, and Women’s Fund, which has been and will continue to provide opportunities and resources for women and children.

We are coming off one of our strongest years yet as we are approaching \$120 million in assets under management, which we will continue to grow and invest back into the community we love. We thank you all for your support and prayers. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve each of you and this amazing community I love.

Always,



Paul Lessard
President, High Point Community Foundation

HPCF

Community Impact



Annual Grants Program

The High Point Community Foundation granted **\$557,500** to 23 nonprofit organizations doing amazing work in the greater High Point area!

Community Impact Grants are given to specific critical needs projects that address and make a significant impact in education, food security, homelessness, youth development, community cohesion, and more. The Annual Grants Program has been a flagship annual event over the past 27 years at the Foundation that is key to launching and sustaining so many local nonprofit organizations.

ANDREWS HIGH SCHOOL

Health Fair for students and families

The purpose of this project is to provide a health fair organized by students, in partnership with Atrium Health, to offer health screenings, educational services, and resources for individuals and their families.

BEYOND SPORTS

Construction of the first "Mini-Pitch" in the City of High Point at Johnson Street Elementary

Funding enables Beyond Sports to build a safe, multipurpose play space at Johnson Street Elementary – the size of an outdoor basketball court. Construction includes an exterior fencing, basketball, and soccer goals.

THE ARC OF HIGH POINT

The Arc@work - Competitive Integrated Employment Opportunities for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

Funding provides for a staff member dedicated to develop employment opportunities for people with IDD, and work in The Wild & Free Day Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, Work Together NC, The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities and North Carolina Association for People Supporting Employment First.

C3 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR CHILDREN, INC.

"Walking the Walk and Beyond" with Children and Families

C3 spends many hours in face-to-face contact with families, as they create step-by-step strategies to help them "get out" of their crisis with goal setting to avoid future issues and frequent monitoring. C3 accompanies families to various agencies for collaborative support and advocates for them to navigate housing and school concerns.

CARING SERVICES

Direct services for individuals with substance abuse disorders with a transitional housing program

Assist individuals who have substance abuse disorders and offers treatment paired with basic needs as a bridge between addiction and recovery to help clients regain their health and find stability to achieve long-term recovery.

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF CENTRAL NC

Provide legal advocacy for children in High Point

Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina (CLC) provides a voice for vulnerable children in court proceedings. CLC will use grant funds to support their Custody Advocacy Program (CAP). CLC attorneys advocate for children's best interests and serve as the eyes and ears of the Court.

COMMUNITY HOUSING SOLUTIONS OF GUILFORD, INC.

Provide critical home repairs

Home repairs are targeted to low-income High Point families preserving home ownership and making their homes warmer, drier, and safer. Grant funds will be used for construction materials/supplies, construction labor, and subcontractor fees for these critical home repairs in High Point.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF HIGH POINT (CIS)

General operational costs

Program operation dollars will be used to offset the increase in financial needs by our schools to keep CIS school-based staff. Due to the reduction in funding from Title 1 funds, several CIS schools are no longer able to contribute towards the salary and benefits of CIS site coordinators.



GO FAR (GO OUT FOR A RUN)

Going the Distance

GO FAR clubs in HP Title I schools and afterschool programs to foster an inclusive environment where all children have the chance to develop physical and mental health in a positive way. Funding will help with registration scholarships, Start a Club Fees, the Lace Up Program (new running shoes and socks for participants who need them), and the Fuel Up Program (provides healthy snacks to participants).

GROWING THE DISTANCE INC.

Horizon House

Growing the Distance will provide 60–90 minute evening classes for students aged 7–17 that exposes students to a variety of industry fields to engage them in life skills, creative projects, and career exploration. Funding will be dedicated to covering student enrollment fees, transportation expenses, and tools needed to create a conducive learning atmosphere.



GTCC FOUNDATION

Supporting Students through Titan Link Services

Through grant-funding, Titan Link Services can offer students the help they need to access resources for housing, transportation, food insecurity, child care, and scholarships for tuition. Currently, the biggest needs students are experiencing are food and housing insecurities, as well as tuition shortcomings.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Roof replacement and annex renovation at the ReStore and Habitat for Humanity office

Funding is for renovations at the ReStore and office building on Qubein Avenue. The roof replacement is necessary for the structural integrity of the 24,000 square foot facility and to prevent further ceiling damage from severe leaks.

HELPING HANDS

Meeting Basic Community Needs

Grant funds will support the operation of their food pantry and emergency financial assistance programs to help meet the needs of food insecurity through their food pantry, kids backpack program, home delivery program, and to assist families with rent and utility assistance to help maintain housing stability.

HIGH POINT COMMUNITY AGAINST VIOLENCE (HPCAV)

**Serve Targeted Violent Offenders and
Focus on Younger Offenders and Their
Families.**

Expand efforts in reducing violence to offenders, while also targeting younger offenders and their families by providing financial aid for counseling services, school-related materials, sports programs, and other youth-related needs that their families cannot afford.

HOPEFULLS, INC.

End Childhood Hunger

Supply and deliver approximately 48,000 weeknight meals to 300 children at 4 elementary schools located in High Point. The meals are cooked, packaged, and delivered to the schools and given to the children at the end of the school day to take home and have for dinner Monday-Thursday, every week of the school year.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

**Deliver Healthy Meals to High Point
Neighbors**

Grant dollars will support the Community Meals initiative in High Point where alumni and students of the Providence Culinary Training Program, volunteers and staff produce up to 18,000 individually packaged meals a week for distribution to people experiencing food insecurity.

NAAMAN'S RECOVERY VILLAGE

Expand the In-house Work Program

Naaman's incorporates an in-house work program for men in recovery from addiction with drugs and/or alcohol. The grant will allow them to purchase embroidery machines to complete a work station that can be operated by one or two of the men and greatly increase their embroidery capacity. This is critical to provide applicable work experience during their recovery and prepare to re-enter into the workforce.

READING CONNECTIONS

Serve Adult Literacy Needs in High Point

Funding will support programming in High Point to offer literacy programs in partnership with the High Point Library, World Relief Triad, YWCA, Oak Hill Elementary, and the Fairview Family Resource Center.

“As a community, we

are incredibly fortunate to have an array of nonprofits whose vital work addresses our city's most pressing needs and enriches the lives of our residents. These grants empower them to continue creating positive, lasting change in our communities.”

RAVEN JEFFERSON,
GRANTS CHAIR, HPCF
COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR,
GUILFORD EDUCATION ALLIANCE

WHEELS4HOPE

Car Blessing Program

Funding will repair donated cars that are matched with referred clients from partner agencies in High Point to low-income families and individuals.

WELBORN ACADEMY

Leadership Development Implementation Act (LDIA)

Develop and sustain a leadership development program to enhance the academic and social environment at Welborn Academy. Funds will be allocated to the development of the Men of Distinction Program (mentoring program for young men), the Ladies of Value and Excellence Program (LOVE: mentoring program for young ladies), and the school wide implementation of the individual Welborn Way Leadership Program.

WEST END MINISTRIES, INC. (WEM)

Leslie's House Expanded Services

Funding will help expand the shelter programs at WEM to include Leslie's House, the Winter Shelter, an active Case Management program, and Behavioral Health Counseling all with the same goal of helping women overcome poverty and homelessness and to move forward to live their best life.



TINY HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Smith Street Veteran Community

Grant funds gives students first-hand experience constructing homes in a safe and controlled environment, so they will have confidence and experience to apply for positions with other construction companies.

YMCA OF HIGH POINT

Y Readers Summer Learning Loss Prevention Program

Grant funding will help with the expansion of the Y Readers Program to 30 students in Summer 2025. The goal is to improve literacy skills and to support students' reading at grade level by third grade with pre/post assessments in coordination with the local school.

Women's Fund 2024 Grants

The nonprofit organizations in the greater High Point area are truly the heart of this community! Every day they work hard to provide for those not only in need, but striving for more in their lives. This is why the High Point Community Foundation has this important initiative to support women and children.

A SIMPLE GESTURE

Green Bag Project

Grant funds will be used in support of the green bag food program and food recovery efforts. Funds cover both supplies (green bags, printed materials, marketing efforts, foil pans) and staff time to foster and grow the programs. For their food recovery program, they are working to partner with more High Point businesses. Cultivating these partnerships and educating businesses on food recovery (including safety and liability) take time. As owners and managers change out at businesses, these relationships must be maintained and refreshed to ensure continued food donations.

C3 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR CHILDREN

BRIM Project

The "BRIM" project focuses on woman-led families with children. C3 will create and administer life skill training sessions for moms in various locations throughout High Point. The training sessions and workshops will initially be driven by C3 in the areas where data indicates the greatest need for education and awareness. As they move forward, they will branch out to include sessions on other topics moms want to better understand or experience.

CARING SERVICES INC.

Recovery Retreat

Funding will be used to identify two counselors who will locate and arrange for cabins at a North Carolina State Park; cabins will meet the needs of participants. Counselors will plan for the event in conjunction with participants, including meal planning, hiking, and other activities. Through planned activities, participants will gain confidence, learn to identify strengths and weaknesses, share problem solving opportunities, identify ways to remain grounded. To continue their recovery journeys, they will also participate in trust building activities and will develop long-term coping skills.

DIVINE HEALING AND RESTORATION MINISTRIES

Empowering and Restoring Homeless Women

Funds will be used to purchase personal hygiene items and daily essentials for homeless women as well as clean clothing and healthy food so that they can sustain day to day living. The desire is that these funds can help make an impact on those who are less fortunate by providing necessities for them and their children. The organization will be able to provide food, non-perishable items (since groceries are extremely high-priced), and do more for children such as providing extra curriculum activities that their parents may not be able to afford.

EMPOWERING BREASTFEEDING INC.

Pro Bono Lactation Consultations

Empowering Breastfeeding envisions a community where families and healthcare professionals have access to the evidence-based breastfeeding support and resources they need to improve breastfeeding outcomes. To advance their mission, they are focused on ensuring health equity for at-risk breastfeeding families and increasing the number of IBCLCs in the state. One way they are accomplishing these aims is by offering pro-bono in-home breastfeeding consultations for families without health insurance and training aspiring IBCLCs.



LYDIA HOUSE, INC.

Resource Center

Lydia House provides for the basic needs of women who seek help including counseling, food, clothing, housing referrals, and resources for them to sustain themselves and their families. Funding will help conduct an employability jobs program to assist at least 50 women in underserved communities to find and/or maintain jobs. Employability skills are transferrable skills that are useful in nearly every job. They involve the development of expertise, a knowledge base, and a mindset that makes people more attractive to employers. Funding includes professional job readiness contractors, marketing, supplies, and travel.

TINY HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Women Empowering Women with Power Tools

Grant funds will be used to expand Women Empowering Women with Power Tools Program in High Point and will be available through collaborative partnership with and held in the newly renovated carpentry shop located at High Point's Community Against Violence facility. Funds will be used to purchase personal protective equipment for women attending classes, tools, marketing for the classes, in addition to a small portion to cover the Saturday Instructor. Project materials are covered by THCD and local supply companies. The space for conducting all classes and programs are at no charge due to collaboration with HPCAV and Goodwill.

YWCA OF HIGH POINT

Doula Support Program

The YWCA of High Point will utilize the funds to support the capacity of the Community Health Worker / Doula program. The funds will support the staffing of the Community Health Worker and Doulas to provide support to women during their prenatal, labor, and post-partum journey. A doula provides the support to women in preparing for their birth and during labor. When a woman has an advocate and support system, this relieves stress and supports the mother in the birth plan she desires. Ultimately this support leads to ensuring the mother is getting prenatal care and post-partum care that leads to healthy birth outcomes.

“
As Chair of the Women's Fund Grants Committee, I am proud to witness the transformative impact our grants have on women and families in our community. Together, we are building a stronger, more equitable future for all.
”

AMBER WILLIAMSON,
WOMEN'S FUND CHAIR, HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HIGH POINT DISCOVERED

“The Grants Committee is the heart and soul of our Foundation.

To serve on the Grants Committee is one of the most difficult and yet most rewarding experiences you will ever have. It takes a special person to do this work, and I cannot thank them enough for their wisdom, passion, and commitment. I’ve learned to never underestimate the power of a small, committed group of like-minded people who work together for good.”

PAUL LESSARD,
PRESIDENT, HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



moving the city
FORWARD



Housing Impact Fund



High Point stands at a pivotal moment, poised to capitalize on its forward momentum. To sustain and accelerate this growth, strategic investments in community redevelopment, workforce development, and housing are essential.

The High Point Community Foundation, in partnership with Self-Help Ventures Fund, has launched a Housing Impact Fund to build new, multi-family rental housing for people who earn 30-80% of the area median income. With a goal of \$40 million to provide low-interest loans to developers, the fund aims to build over 1,000 units. Alongside millions in public and banking investments, High Point needs our philanthropic community to lead the way.

“With the tremendous growth that High Point has and will continue to experience in the coming years,

it is imperative that we focus now on the current and future housing needs of our community. Without this concerted effort to provide ample and diverse housing options, our employers and business owners will not have access to the local workforce that is needed to support this economic growth and will be forced to look outside of our community for talent.”

RACHEL COLLINS, IOM
BUSINESS HIGH POINT CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, PRESIDENT & CEO

Strong Housing

Promotes a Diverse, Healthy, & Productive Community



ADDRESSES WORKFORCE HOUSING NEED

Affordable, accessible housing is the foundation of a thriving workforce. High Point's growth depends on providing housing options that meet the needs of essential workers, from teachers to healthcare providers, to small business employees. Redevelopment funds targeting workforce housing ensure that those driving the local economy can live where they work, fostering stability and economic resilience.

BUILDS A THRIVING ECONOMIC ECOSYSTEM

Workforce housing, when paired with community redevelopment initiatives, revitalizes neighborhoods, attracts businesses, and boosts local economies. By addressing housing affordability, private philanthropy can help High Point retain and attract talent, supporting the businesses and the industries that rely on them.



ADDRESSES ROOT CAUSES

Accessible, affordable, and quality housing is at the core of many of the challenges we face as a community. To fundamentally change education, food security, mental health, and generational poverty, families need safe, quality housing. The Housing Impact Fund will provide good places to live to more residents, breaking cycles of poverty.



ENSURES CONTINUED GROWTH FOR HIGH POINT

To maintain forward momentum, High Point must address key challenges like housing affordability and workforce readiness. Redevelopment and workforce housing funds directly tackle these issues, ensuring the city's growth remains inclusive and sustainable.



Literacy Initiative



Almost a year has passed since our Community Foundation made the decision to initiate the HPCF Literacy Initiative and during that time, we have raised \$750,000 to underwrite the High Dosage Tutoring (HDT) strategy for 1st graders in High Point elementary schools. On March 19th we invited our donors and Foundation family to receive an update on the progress we have made.

Joining us were our Superintendent, Dr. Whitney Oakley; Chief Academic Officer, Jusmar Manness; and principal of Kirkland Park Elementary School, Yajaira Owens; and a current program tutor at Kirkland Park, who shared their updates and answered questions.

“High Point’s illiteracy deficit is the most compelling challenge of our generation;

we have a responsibility as leaders to eradicate this if we are to become a truly successful and progressive community. We are living in such an opportune time; High Point has so many wonderful new projects underway that it will make our city a more desirable place to live. However, we must remember, the first thing people look at when considering moving here is the quality of our education. I am proud of the HPCF’s investment in the “High Dosage Tutoring” model. Even now, first graders at four High Point Elementary Schools are being prepared by HDT tutors to be reading at grade level by third-grade and this should be happening in every elementary school in High Point. We owe this to our children, our families, and the future of our community.”

ANN BUSBY,
FORMER CHAIR, HPCF
& FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Literacy Must be High Point's #1 Priority...

We were excited to have folks join us as it is vitally important for all to understand that this Initiative is successfully underway, it is working, and it is in fact, just the beginning in our quest to bring a comprehensive High Dosage Tutoring strategy to all 14 High Point elementary schools.

Illiteracy has been and continues to be the number one economic development challenge we currently face in High Point, but it can and must be addressed. If you look at any of the current challenges, be it, crime, unemployment, homelessness, poverty, home ownership, food insecurity, and yes, even incarceration, you will quickly see the root cause of each of these issues is our unacceptably low literacy numbers. Remember, literacy = self-sufficiency = a healthy community. Illiteracy not only impacts our schools, but it also permeates throughout our local workforce. The ability to read is liberating and is one of the most important building blocks in the journey toward independence and self-sufficiency.

We have partnered with Guilford County Schools to pilot a High Dosage Tutoring program with first graders in four local elementary schools. This strategy was used during COVID and was funded with federal dollars. The federal funding is gone, and we have stepped in to underwrite two years of tutors. Why will this work?

Research has shown that grades K – second grade are the most critical years to develop strong reading skills. In K - second grade, our children are learning to read, and in third grade, they step into a new realm in which they are reading to learn. By addressing this challenge upstream, we will not only save more children, we will also dramatically save money.

The High Point Community Foundation sees this as one of those rare moments in our history in which we can change the course of High Point's future. What we do in the next few years, our willingness to invest in the future of children's learning, will level a playing field that has never been level before.



Imagine creating an entire community of well-educated, self-sufficient people (people of all colors, religions, and economic status) who will have every opportunity to reach their God-given potential.

“My dream is to see High Dosage Tutoring placed in all 14 High Point

elementary schools by 2028. This is the only way we can even begin to break our historical cycle of illiteracy and create a new generation of students who are entering the third grade ready to learn. This will produce decreased discipline issues, greatly enhanced test scores, more student retention, and higher performances.”

PAUL LESSARD,
PRESIDENT, HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

in the COMMUNITY



Announcement of New Trustees

The success of the High Point Community Foundation over the years has been driven by the organization's tradition of seeking out those folks in our community who not only love High Point but have also proven themselves to be strong and committed servant leaders who are willing to share their wisdom, time, talents, and resources. To date, over 87 High Pointers have served on the Board of Trustees and each has left an indelible mark upon the organization.

This year we are bringing three new Trustees on board who will certainly continue this tradition, and they are Marc DeLille, Meredith Covington, and Tom Smothers. Each bring a wealth of community knowledge, leadership, and expertise in the economic and legal sectors. Our Trustees sign on initially for a three-year term of service with a second term to be voted on at the completion of the first. These terms are staggered so we always have a strong, experienced core of leadership to help us steer the ship.



Marc DeLille

Marc is a Broker/Managing Partner at DeLille | Field Commercial Real Estate and is very involved in the local business community. He serves corporate as well as start-up clients who need industrial, office and showroom space.

Marc's office is a well-known and respected member of the High Point business community. Originally from the Chicago area, he graduated from North Central College, met his wife at a wedding "down south," and four months later, he sold his house,

left his job, and moved to the High Point to marry Mary Powell. Mary Powell DeLille is the Owner, Broker/Realtor of DeLille Home, and together they have 2 sons, one of whom owns DeLille Landscapes and the other is currently playing golf at Eastern Carolina University.

Marc enjoys spending time with his family, maintaining a manicured lawn, improving their home, and playing golf.

Meredith is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Advantage. She was raised in Charlotte, NC and attended North Carolina State University where she studied communications, with a concentration in public relations. After college she lived in Washington, D.C. and worked on Capitol Hill and K Street doing marketing, advertising, public relations, and fundraising. Upon marrying her husband Braden, who was born and raised in High Point, she relocated to High Point. Meredith and Braden have three children: Brooks, George, and Katherine.

She is enthusiastic about High Point and serves(d) on the Boards of TAG, Guild of Family Service, Junior League of High Point, Good Friends, and her church. Meredith enjoys local events, along with attending her children's sports and school programs. She loves music, the outdoors, and her two dogs.

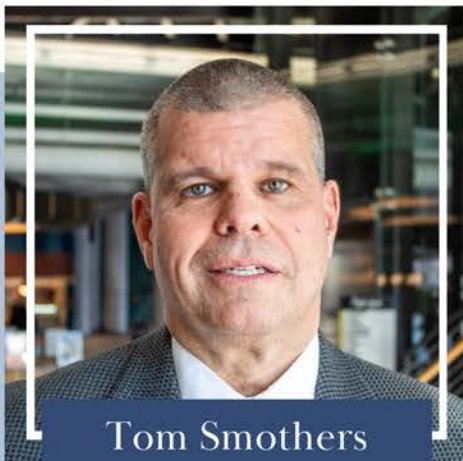


Meredith Covington

"I have always believed that the true strength

of any nonprofit organization is directly proportionable to the quality of their leadership. I have had the pleasure of working with some of the finest men and women in our community who have brought a sense of mission and commitment to our great endeavor that has carried us from success to success."

PAUL LESSARD,
PRESIDENT, HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Tom Smothers

Tom grew up in High Point and attended High Point Central. He attended and graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill as an undergraduate and later graduated from Campbell Law School. He is currently serving as an Assistant Public Defender for the State of North Carolina and previously worked with Jim Morgan's Law Firm. Tom has worked on both sides of the court.

He has been married to Debbie who is a Nurse Practitioner for 35 years, and they have a grown son and daughter. Tom is committed to and involved with his church, is a history buff, and is an avid reader.

Conversion & Company



Community Heroes:
The Plertons



TRUST IN THE DRIVE

A NEW GENERATION OF GIVING

For over 100 years, the name Ilderton has stood for integrity and excellence in the business world in High Point. “Trust in the Drive” may be their motto, but it’s also the family’s philosophy when it comes to their attitude about how to impact their community. The can-do attitude embodied by the entire leadership team and staff of Ilderton Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram Fiat has been their foundation for a century. Today, as the #1 provider of Dodge Charger fleet vehicles for police departments around the country, and a beacon of mobility and accessibility in their van conversion department, Ilderton Dodge has seen its fair share of success.

At the heart of that success are Tim and Linda Ilderton. Tim, who graduated from East Carolina University in 1973 returned to his hometown of High Point to work with his father and grandfather at the dealership. However, the idea of passing down strong business principles of excellence, integrity, and dependability didn’t stop with Tim. Today, Tim and Linda’s kids are all very involved and invested in their communities, with many of them working to continue carrying their ancestors’ legacies right here in High Point.

“I’m real proud to be a High Pointer,” Tim shares, “and to have known people like my father and grandfather... It’s exciting that that’s being recreated and passed down to the younger generations.”

“I’m real proud to be a High Pointer.”

When it comes to passing down business to the next generation, Tim recalls foundational support of the merger between the Chamber of Commerce and High Point Partners, alongside leaders like David Congdon and Scott Tilly, to form Business High Point as it stands today. The work of these leaders led to the creation of places like Truist Point Stadium, Congdon Yards, and Stock + Grain Assembly, emblems of new growth and revitalization in our city. Tim and Linda share how important it is for this kind of community revitalization not to be halted by previous generations but encouraged.

“High Point has come back much stronger, much better, and much fresher,” Linda says, reviewing all the growth she’s seen in High Point in the last decade. “The goal is to pull in the younger generation and to keep our kids here.”



But this future-focused desire to see the next generations step into leadership roles, extends beyond the world of business or economic development for the Ildertons. The reason being that for the Ildertons, business success comes with a profound responsibility to steward and uplift their community's future success. For the Ildertons, the question of giving has never been "Should we?" but always "*Where* should we?"

You don't have to look far to find a nonprofit organization in High Point that Tim and Linda Ilderton have impacted over their lifetimes in the city. In fact, the list of organizations they've been involved with – either as chairman, board members, volunteers, or donors – is easily too long to list.

"I'm grateful for what I have and I'm able to give back," Tim says, when reflecting on why business owners should be involved in local philanthropy. "If you have the means to do it, where are you going to give your time and energy to and to what nonprofits?"



IN THE COMMUNITY

The pair have served and given to a variety of organizations, including the Carpenter House, Family Services of the Piedmont, West End Ministries, Leslie's House, Children's Home Society, Caring Services, and more. Recently, they've supported the efforts of their daughter-in-law, Tori Ilderton, as she and others have launched a new High Point nonprofit, Bundle of Joy, to provide new mothers at High Point Medical Center with resources for themselves and their newborns.

In so many ways, the Ildertons take their deep love for family and heritage, and strive to see other families and young parents restored through the work they choose to engage with.

"If we don't take care of these younger populations, and if we don't bring our neighbors up, then we're not going to grow," Linda reflects. "I think that's where we are right now. We're at a real critical point... we have a lot of poverty and a lot of hunger [in our city]."



As a trustee and Grants Committee member at High Point Community Foundation, the couple is also ensuring that their legacy of generosity in High Point extends beyond the years they have invested in the city. The mark they are leaving on this city is one that will be transformational for generations to come.

“We have to make the community safe for everybody, and we have to make sure that our children grow up to be leaders of our community,” Linda says. “When Tim and I are a hundred years old, we need these generations to step up and do the job we’ve done. If we make sure that they understand that we do it, they should do it. We lead by example.”

The Ilderton philosophy of business is elegantly simple, captured in Linda’s words: “You can’t sustain a business for 100 years if you don’t take care of your customers and have integrity.”

This same principle guides their approach to philanthropy—creating lasting change by nurturing the next generation of community leaders in the heart of our city.

“If we don't take care of these younger populations, and if we don't bring our neighbors up, then we're not going to grow.”

Pro Sports & Philanthropy



As I sit at my desk in the Foundation offices at Congdon Yards, I am working on articles for our Foundation Newsletter, *The Catalyst*. If I turn to my left, I have great view of our Carolina Core FC pro soccer team in preseason training in the beautiful Truist Point Stadium. It is early in the season and the play is brisk as the boys are fighting hard for starting spots. I have caught myself, more than once this week, thinking I would give my left arm to be out there on the pitch playing the game I love, but then I realize I would be out a good arm only to be handicapped by my two artificial knees. Yet, the sight of that stadium, the hustle on the field, the daily activity, and new buildings makes me realize how fortunate we are in High Point to have two pro sports teams that are dramatically changing the look and feel of High Point's downtown.

“The sight of that stadium, the hustle on the field,

the daily activity and new buildings makes me realize how fortunate we are in High Point to have two pro sports teams that are dramatically changing the look and feel of High Point's downtown.”

PAUL LESSARD,
PRESIDENT,
HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Both the High Point Rockers and Carolina Core FC quickly won over the community with their festive and professional presentation and their very visible commitment to the community. On baseball game nights, when I am working late at the office, I often find myself enthralled by the diversity of the crowd in terms of age, gender, culture, and economic strata. There is a genuine sense of camaraderie and what the academics like to call “social capital” evident throughout the crowd. One cannot help but smile seeing all these segments of our population not only getting along but truly enjoying one another’s company. For the soccer games, which I am typically a part of the crowd, there is an international flair with smoke, fireworks, music, and team songs. You might close your eyes and for a fleeting moment find yourself in Milan, Barcelona, or Manchester. These teams are a great gift to our city, and it is a gift that will continue to grow, attracting younger folks and families to our downtown which is so important for High Point’s future.

I would also be remiss if I did not tie in a philanthropic commitment as both of these clubs and their ownership who believe in giving back to the community which brings out the very best in not only sports but our humanity. Pete Fisch and the High Point Rockers have always been generous providing youth clinics, offering free tickets, holding community events, and generally taking on the role of a benevolent big brother to High Point’s young people. This will only get stronger with the recent establishment of the Coy Williard Dugout Fund that we manage at the High Point Community Foundation. Coy Williard, who served as Chair of the Rockers organization, was a life-long sports enthusiast who spent a lifetime giving back to the community he loved. Upon Coy’s passing, the Dugout Fund was established to honor him and serve the youth in our community, using the game of baseball as the vehicle. Keep your eyes and ears tuned as this year you will see free youth baseball clinics, Coy’s Kids game nights at which his vision will be realized of giving every child a ticket, a drink, popcorn, a hotdog, and a great night of baseball.

Carolina Core FC also immediately jumped into the role of community benefactor and leader with the establishment of their Carolina Core FC Academy, which offers high-quality youth coaching, life skills learned through sport and, for those talented enough, a pathway to professional soccer. What most folks do not understand is that CCFC is investing in youth soccer in a way rarely done before in America where the “pay-to-play” system has often prevented talented young, less affluent players from getting into the game. It works like this: they have the MLS NEXT team which will feed players into the MLS pro league. Then they have elite youth academy teams at the U-13, U-14, and U-15 level who will play at the highest amateur youth level in the county with all fees covered. This fully funded model is only possible because of the incredible donations of businesses and individuals to the Carolina Core. Finally, they will be providing skilled coaching and guidance for CCFC Youth, a large local recreation league that reaches hundreds of local children. In addition to this, they are building a state-of-the-art training center at Phillips Fields which will rival any pro team in the country.

In 2023 our Community Foundation made a grant to CCFC to help put on a family-friendly, community soccer event in High Point, which attracted hundreds of teams from throughout the South and beyond. This event not only signaled High Point’s commitment to sport and youth, but it also provided a huge economic development opportunity for local hotels and restaurants. CCFC is one of only two pro soccer teams in the nation that has a woman serving as the principal investor. Our Megan Oglesby, who was raised and played soccer right here in High Point, has the energy, resources, and vision to use soccer as a vehicle for transformational social change and economic development for the future.

So, let us count our blessings and support these two remarkable organizations who are investing back into our community, enhancing our cultural appeal, and changing young lives. What we have in these two teams is something I truly love, the intersection of sport and philanthropy, which I believe can be one of the strongest forces for good in today’s society.



Make a Difference *in our community*

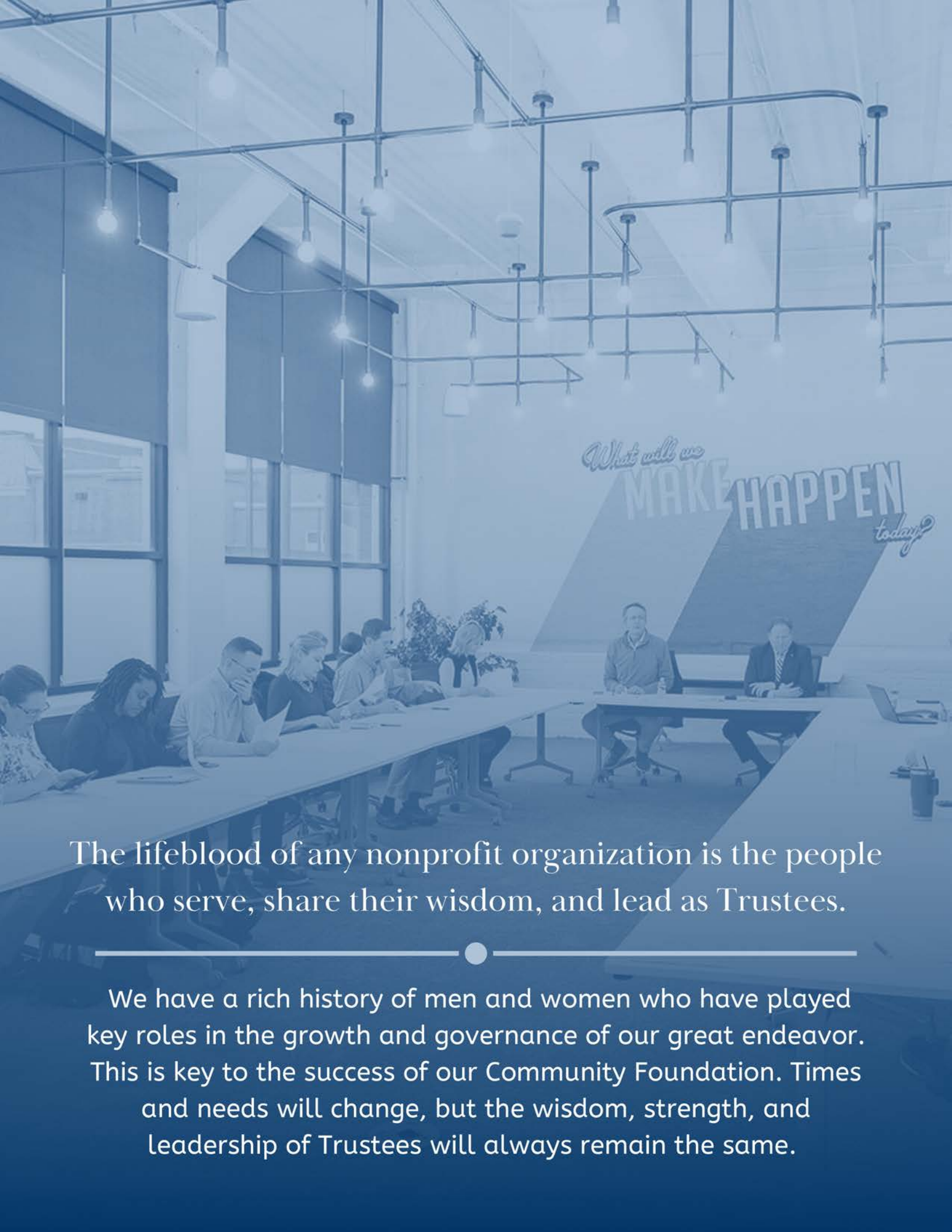
- Create a Donor Advised Fund
- Contribute to our Community Impact Fund to support Annual Grants
- Donate to one of our Initiative Funds (Students First, Heart of High Point, Women's Fund, Housing Impact Fund)

P.O. Box 5166, High Point, NC 27262

336.882.3298

hpcommunityfoundation.org





The lifeblood of any nonprofit organization is the people who serve, share their wisdom, and lead as Trustees.

We have a rich history of men and women who have played key roles in the growth and governance of our great endeavor. This is key to the success of our Community Foundation. Times and needs will change, but the wisdom, strength, and leadership of Trustees will always remain the same.



A VISION FOR GIVING

The Catalyst

HIGH POINT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION